

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (new): A spindle assembly, comprising:

a spindle housing;

a spindle shaft rotatably coupled to the spindle housing;

a mow ball rotatably connected to one end of the spindle shaft; and

a string carrier assembly connected to the spindle shaft intermediate the spindle housing and the mow ball.

Claim 21 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 20, wherein the string carrier assembly comprises a string carrier plate with a string guide and a string holder.

Claim 22 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 21, wherein the string holder is s-shaped.

Claim 23 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 21, wherein the string holder includes a raised lip portion and a clamping portion.

Claim 24 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 20, further comprising a pulley connected to a second end of the spindle shaft.

Claim 25 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 20, further comprising a wear point removably connected to the mow ball.

Claim 26 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 20, further wherein  
the spindle shaft is grooved; and  
the string carrier assembly is adjustably connected to the spindle shaft intermediate the spindle housing and the mow ball.

Claim 27 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 26, wherein the string carrier assembly includes a mounting assembly and a string carrier plate.

Claim 28 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 27, wherein the string carrier plate includes a string guide and a string holder.

Claim 29 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 28, wherein the string holder is s-shaped.

Claim 30 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 28, wherein the string holder includes a raised lip portion and a clamping portion.

Claim 31 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 27, further wherein  
the spindle shaft is grooved with a plurality of locking grooves; and  
the mounting assembly includes a locking slide positioned adjacent to the spindle shaft and a spring adapted to bias the locking slide into one of the locking grooves thereby fixing the mounting assembly in place with respect to the spindle shaft.

Claim 32 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 26, further comprising a pulley connected to a second end of the spindle shaft.

Claim 33 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 20, wherein the spindle shaft is keyed, and further comprising

a height adjustment tube connected to the mow ball and adapted to receive the keyed spindle shaft; and

a string cutting assembly adjustably connected to the height adjustment tube and adapted to be fixed at various positions along the height adjustment tube.

Claim 34 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 33, wherein the string cutting assembly includes a string mount and a cutting disk.

Claim 35 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 34, wherein the string mount includes a pair of string holders for securing cutting string to the string mount.

Claim 36 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 35, wherein the string holders provided with v-shaped openings for holding cutting string.

Claim 37 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 36, wherein the string mount is provided with a threaded opening and the height adjustment tube includes an exteriorly threaded surface adapted to be threaded into the threaded opening.

Claim 38 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 37, wherein the string mount includes a locking plate for securing the string cutting assembly at various positions along the length of the height adjustment tube.

Claim 39 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 38, wherein the height adjustment tube includes a flat locking portion along the length of the height adjustment tube and the locking plate is provided with a rectangular-shaped opening for engaging the flat locking portion, thereby fixing the string mount in place.

Claim 40 (new): The spindle assembly of claim 23, wherein the raised lip portion is biased against the underside of the string carrier plate.